

## Use of Aerial Applications of Chlorsulfuron in California, Particularly on Wheat and Barley

Date: February 16, 2005

To: [Nicole Zinn](#)  
EPA

From: [Rick Melnicoe](#)  
Director, WIPMC

Subject: Use of Aerial Applications of Chlorsulfuron in California, Particularly on Wheat and Barley

Dear Nicole,

Following your questions are the answers (in bold). Rick

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To: [Rick Melnicoe](#)  
Director, WIPMC

From: [Nicole Zinn](#)  
EPA

Hi Rick,

I'm trying to characterize how aerial applications of chlorsulfuron are being used in California, particularly on wheat and barley. The data that I have (from multiple sources) show that about 14% of barley and 4% of wheat acreage in California are treated with chlorsulfuron. Of this, it seems as if quite a bit is treated with aerial application (approx. 70% of barley apps. and 40% of wheat apps.)

I also have some data from the California database that shows both ground and aerial applications are used for these crops, although I haven't yet determined the percentages from this database.

1. Is this consistent with what you know?  
**No.** If these numbers don't seem reasonable, please let me know. **See below.**
2. Is there a reason why aerial applications are being used instead of ground applications?  
**Ground applications are the norm.**  
Is aerial application less expensive than ground applications?  
**This is not a factor.**  
Are ground applications not feasible in certain situations, such as weather, terrain, etc.?  
**Aerial applications would be used when the ground is too wet for tractors.**
3. In addition, if similar information is available for pasture and rangeland uses, that would be helpful as well.  
**These data are not possible to extract from the Pesticide Use Reporting System and County Agricultural Commissioners' Data.**

For Year 2002 in California. Data from [California Department of Pesticide Regulation Pesticide Use Reporting System](#) and [California Agricultural Commissioners' Data](#)

<b>Barley</b>				
<b>Acres Harvested</b>	<b>Acres Treated w/chlorsulfuron</b>	<b>Amount a.i. applied</b>	<b>Acres treated by air</b>	<b>Acres treated by ground</b>
73,685	2,637 (3.6%)	28.79	130 (4.9%)	2,507 (95.1%)
<b>Wheat</b>				
<b>Acres Harvested</b>	<b>Acres Treated w/chlorsulfuron</b>	<b>Amount a.i. applied</b>	<b>Acres treated by air</b>	<b>Acres treated by ground</b>
534,882	5,545 (1.0%)	47.48	566.5 (10.2%)	4,978.5 (89.8%)